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time favor us with a volume on the advances made during this period also.

"The Glacial Nightmare and the Flood."¹—To American geologists, the title of this work is almost a challenge, and might cause it to be ignored, but to every student of superficial geology it is an invaluable book. It is a well-arranged history of the observations and growth of the science of superficial geology. To many of the fathers of this department of science, it is a tardy justice, and impresses a fair reader with the vast array of facts which were collected at an early date, not in Europe alone, but also in America, leaving for the later observers far less new work than our modern writers usually recognize. Another lesson taught demonstrates that the generalized conclusions of the greatest idols of science are by no means established, and often retard progress. The teachings of each succeeding generation replace, to some extent, those of the preceding, until at last reaction sets in and separates the chaff and shows us how much the early scientific geniuses did for their science, though, perhaps, drawn off into erroneous by-ways.

The work fairly sets forth the rise of the doctrine of floods and its abandonment; of the growth and limitation of the iceberg theory; of the origin and culmination of the glacial theory, with Schimper at the head, and originating the term *Ice Age*. Thus far the author's hand is hardly seen in the book. The treatise is of special value in systematically bringing together the facts and views and doing justice to the authors of works, many of which have been overlooked or are not accessible to American geologists.

On the subject of the unity of the glacial period the evidence is fairly stated, but the author marshalls an array of data favoring the unity of the Age in its general aspect, a point upon which American glacialists differ. The difficulties in accepting the astronomical causes of the Ice Age are fairly set forth, and these adverse conclusions will be received by most American geologists. The cause of glacier motions, and the mechanical effects of glaciers are discussed from their physical aspects, and appear very satisfactory to most observers. The facts showing the former extension of glaciers are arranged, and show how the ice-cap theory has given place to continental glaciers. But here the work is directed against the extreme views, giving rise to the title of the book, on the ground of lack of evidence, and challenges the right of

¹ By Sir Henry H. Howarth, K. C. I. E., M. P., F. G. S., etc. 2 vol. pp. 1-920. Sampson, Low, Marston & Company, London.

appealing to transcendental views. Although some American glacialists will here dissent, yet the treatment of the evidence is very fair, and from the facts collected the book cannot be overlooked by any scientific observer.

The work closes with suggestions to explain some difficulties carefully analyzed, wherein the author appeals to "waves of translation," a modification of the old doctrine of catastrophies (as does also Prof. Prestwich in some of his recent contributions). It is surprising that the idea of cataclysms in some form, whether glacial or otherwise, has permeated the views of so many writers, often without their apparent knowledge, who are considered good disciples of uniformitarianism.

In spite of the title, the work is just such a volume of condensation of observations, gathered from the whole world, as is needed for a manual of references, for these are much more prominent than the views of the author, even in the latter part of the book. It, however, shows that there may be two views of great problems. From the work, one is almost surprised to find how much the early geologists in America had done in surface geology, which has been almost forgotten, yet this formed the foundation of even the modern science of superficial geology.

—J. W. S.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Abstract of the Proceeds. Linnean Society of New York for the year ending March 27, 1894.

BALDWIN, J. M.—Mental Development in the Child and the Race: Methods and Processes. New York, 1895. From the Publishers, Macmillan and Co.

BELL, R.—Honeycombed Limestones in Lake Huron. Extr. Bull. Geol. Soc. Am. Vol. 6, March, 1895. From the Society.

BENEDICT, J. E.—Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Crabs of the family Lithodidae with Notes on the young of *L. camtschaticus* and *L. brevipes*. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., Vol. XVII, 1894.

BIGELOW, R. P.—Report upon the Crustacea of the order Stomatopoda collected by the steamer Albatross between 1885 and 1891, and on other specimens in the U. S. Natl. Mus. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., Vol. XVII, 1894. From the Smithsonian Institution.

BILLINGS, F. S.—How shall the Rich Escape? Boston, 1894. From the Arena Pub. Co.

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